

2018-19 Seasonal Influenza Vaccine Dosage for Children

Flu vaccine dosage is based on the person's **age and the flu vaccine product** that is used.¹ A study in 2016 found that flu vaccine was most frequently involved in reported vaccine errors (20%) and was the most common type of vaccine implicated in age-related vaccine errors.² It is important to prevent flu vaccine administration errors to ensure children are adequately protected against influenza.

For children aged **6-35 months**, vaccine dosage is dependent on the flu vaccine product that is administered. There are currently three licensed flu vaccine products for children aged 6-35 months: Fluzone[®], FluLaval[®], and Fluarix[®] (all quadrivalent).

If You're Using This Vaccine... ¹	Dosage for Ages 6-35 Months	If 2 Doses are Needed... ³
Fluzone (Sanofi Pasteur)	0.25 mL	Give 0.25 mL today, 4 weeks later give 0.25 mL
FluLaval or Fluarix (GSK)	0.5 mL	Give 0.5 mL today, 4 weeks later give 0.5 mL

Refer to the Flu Vaccine Presentation Chart (see footnote 1) for available presentations of each of these vaccines.

For all persons aged **3 years and older**, seasonal flu vaccine dosage is **0.5 mL regardless of the flu vaccine product** being administered.

If 2 doses of 2018-19 flu vaccine are needed, the same vaccine product **does not** need to be used for both doses. Use any age-appropriate flu vaccine that is available that day, ensuring you use the correct dosage. Dosage is based on the child's age on the day of vaccine administration. For example:

- If a child is aged **2 years and 11 months** for dose 1, use the above table to determine the dosage based on **flu vaccine product used**.
- When the child returns 4 weeks later for dose 2 and is **now aged 3 years**, the dosage is **0.5 mL** regardless of flu vaccine product used.

Examples of how to correct pediatric flu vaccine dosage administration errors^{4,5}:

1.) A 6-month-old was inadvertently given a 0.25 mL dose of FluLaval/Fluarix rather than the recommended 0.5 mL dose. What should I do?

If the error is recognized on the same clinic day, you can give a second 0.25 mL dose of the product that was used (FluLaval or Fluarix) to correct this vaccine error. If the error is not discovered until the following day, you should revaccinate with a full dose (either 0.25 mL of Fluzone, or 0.5 mL of FluLaval or Fluarix) as soon as possible. Revaccinating the day after the initial substandard dose was administered is safe and recommended if feasible.

2.) A 2-year-old was inadvertently given 0.5 mL from a Fluzone multi-dose vial rather than the recommended 0.25 mL dose. What should I do?

This is more than an age-appropriate dose. The dose should be counted as valid. Notify the parent/guardian about the error. Ensure that office staff receive education to prevent vaccine administration errors. If a second dose is needed for this child, administer an age-appropriate dose (use the table above) 4 weeks later.

3.) A 5-year-old was inadvertently given a 0.25 mL dose of Fluzone rather than the recommended 0.5 mL dose. What should I do?

If the error is recognized on the same clinic day, you can give a second 0.25 mL dose of Fluzone to correct this vaccine error. If the error is not discovered until the following day, you should revaccinate the 5-year-old with a 0.5 mL dose of an age-appropriate flu vaccine as soon as possible. Revaccinating the day after the initial substandard dose was administered is safe and recommended if feasible.

¹ Refer to "2018-19 Seasonal Influenza Vaccine Presentation Chart" at www.michigan.gov/flu.

² Institute for Safe Medication Practices, 7/28/16 located at www.ismp.org/newsletters/acutecare/showarticle.aspx?id=1144.

³ Refer to "Who Needs 2 Doses of 2018-19 Seasonal Influenza Vaccine" at www.michigan.gov/flu.

⁴ Report all vaccine administration errors to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS): <https://vaers.hhs.gov>.

⁵ Contact your Local Health Department or MDHHS regarding the vaccine error, so the status of the error can be determined and marked accordingly in MCIR.

For more information on flu vaccination, refer to "Prevention and Control of Seasonal Influenza with Vaccines: Recommendations of the ACIP—U.S., 2018-19 Influenza Season," MMWR Recomm Rep 2018;67(No. RR-3):1-20, located at www.cdc.gov/vaccines. For more information regarding flu vaccination, refer to www.michigan.gov/flu (Current Flu Season Vaccination Materials for Health Care Professionals) and www.cdc.gov/flu.